REMARKS

Chronological Excerpts From Specification Supporting Proposed Claim 1 Amendment

1. "*The present invention generally relates to a method of making apparel that has a contiguous video-imaging surface made out of one or more highly flexible pixelated materials*--including the types of material being developed for making 'ePaper' or 'eNewspaper'--such that the apparel will be lightweight, comfortable and thermally tolerable, when worn by individuals." Page 1, lines 11-14

2. "As numerous companies begin to provide pixelated materials that are as flexible or as 'foldable' as paper, and offer the immersive quality of constantly streaming information (or other dynamic imagery such as that seen on the Internet or on television), the prospect of employing such materials--that will also be lightweight and thermally comfortable when worn as visually dynamic apparel--can practicably be achieved. It is the purpose of *the present invention to provide methods of making lightweight and wearable apparel out of thermally comfortable, highly flexible pixelated-material*, and in so doing, to provide visually-dynamic clothing and goods that can be erased, rewritten and 'upgraded' in appearance either in real-time or by pre-programming their appearance ahead of time, and preferably include the capability to image digital video onto the apparel and/or onto shapes typical of apparel segments and/or apparel components." Page 3, lines 21-31

3. "*It is also a purpose of the present invention to provide practical methods for adjoining such highly flexible pixelated material to itself, or to other like material, to form wearable video-imaging apparel.*" Page 4, lines 7-9

4. "By contrast, *the present invention, shows simply and clearly, how video-imaging apparel is comprised almost entirely of a lightweight material that is designed to be highly flexible, and durable enough to fabricate apparel therefrom*, particularly apparel *having a substantially contiguous video-imaging surface over much, or all, of the surface area of wearable goods--or made of material that can readily be adjoined in imageable segments* such that combined segments will collectively provide a substantially contiguous video-imaging surface over the apparel." Page 6, lines 5-11

5. "With reference to the drawings, *a visually-dynamic pixelated-image displaying apparel is depicted comprising at least one flexible lightweight pixelated material having a contiguous imaging surface comprised of a multitude of pixels.*" Page 9, lines 16-18

6. "The principal components used to implement the present invention are depicted by way of example in *video-imaging apparel 10 seen in Figs. 1C, 2C, 4, 4 and 5 wherein each is comprised of highly flexible pixelated material* 12 of a type that is the same as, or similar to, that which has been, or is being, developed for ePaper, and which can display any one or more of a variety of video-media content." Page 9, lines 27-31

7. "In Figs. 1A through 1C and Figs. 2A through 2C, *the apparel is comprised of video-imaging panels made from highly flexible pixelated material* 12 e.g. the vest left-front segment 20 and

vest right-front segment 22 seen in Fig. 1A, and the vest left-rear segment 16 and vest right-rear segment 18 seen in Fig. 1B." Page 10, lines 1-4

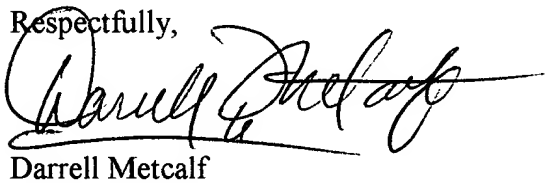
8. *"In Fig. 2C a skirt 36 is seen fabricated from video-imaging apparel segments..."* Page 10, line 28

9. "*Control and formatting means 104 routes the formatted video content via transmission link 122 to its respective video-imaging apparel segment, or contiguously-formed video-imaging apparel (both being comprised of highly flexible pixelated material* 124)." Page 12, lines 18-20

* * *

The applicant submits that the requested references above, excerpted from the 09/929,615 specification, meet the requirement of describing how the wearable pixelated apparel of the self-contained, portable system can be comprised entirely, and / or "almost entirely" (quote #4) of any among a variety of flexible pixelated material (currently available, or "yet-to-be- developed" Page 11, line 26). In view of all independent claims now being currently amended to specify apparel "made entirely of" flexible pixelated material, the applicant respectfully submits that the application is in a condition for allowance, and therefore requests that the examiner grant a Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully,



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APPENDIX A

(Printout of PDF emailed to Supervisor Shalwala 5-10-04 10:48 AM PST)

RE: The patent application of Metcalf
US Pat. Application Serial No. 09/929,615
Filed August 13, 2001
Examiner: Lun-yi Lao, Group Art Unit 2673

CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A ~~Wearable~~ wearable pixelated apparel display system ~~comprised of~~ comprising:

1. at least one highly flexible and lightweight pixelated material having a contiguous imaging surface comprised of a multitude of pixels, wherein
    a. at least one of said pixelated material is shaped to conform to a three-dimensional portion of a human body;
    b. said at least one pixelated material is equipped with a communications link to communicate with at least one image-playback / image-control portable apparatus;
2. said image-playback / image-control portable apparatus is equipped to playback~~, control and shape~~ display imagery content which is shaped in conformance with the size and the shape of said ~~at least one~~ pixelated material;
    c. said portable apparatus comprising:
        i. at least one control circuit,
        ii. at least one intelligent controller,
        iii. at least one electronic power source,
        iv. at least one input/output interface means for ~~to receive~~ receiving and sending ~~digital media content~~ said display imagery content,
        v. at least one ~~digital media content~~ display imagery content playback means,
        vi. a user interface means for a user to communicate with said portable apparatus and to control the playback of at least one source of ~~digital media content~~ display imagery content; and

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vii. intelligent controller software responsive to user input from said user interface means.

~~- at least one control circuit,~~

~~- at least one intelligent controller,~~

~~- at least one electronic power source,~~

~~- at least one input/output interface means to receive and send digital media content,~~

~~- at least one digital media content playback means,~~

~~- a user interface means for a user to communicate with said apparatus and to control the playback of at least one source of digital media content, and~~

~~- intelligent controller software responsive to user input from said user interface means.~~

APPENDIX B

(Printout copy of email cover letter to Supervisor Shalwala 5-10-04 10:48 AM PST)

Mr. Bipin Shalwala
USPTO

May 10, 2004

Please find attached a revised independent claim for application 09/929,615

The present invention--as distinguished from the relied upon prior art--is a wearable, self-contained video and / or graphic image content displaying '**system**.' The wearable display system is portable and includes components, and electronic connections, or electronic communication, between the components, that are essential for the control, storing and playing back of video and / or graphic image content. The video or graphic content of the portable system is formatted for display onto particular, and often different, sizes and shapes of apparel segments from which articles of clothing are typically comprised. The system includes a portable user interface and content control and playback means whereby a user can choose among a selection, or otherwise control the playback of, display content which is formatted to the size and shape of apparel segments, preferably including content that is formatted to appear in a contiguous manner over a plurality of apparel segments and correctly aligned across the seams adjoining such segments.

The relied upon and referenced prior art are one or another type of display screen (which are not specified as, a subset of a self-contained wearable display system). None of the prior art represents a portable and self-contained video and / or graphic image content displaying system which also comprises wearable apparel made of flexible pixelated material. More specifically, none of the prior art provides a portable playback device with a user-controllable interface for a user to control, or choose from a selection of, content which has been formatted for display on apparel comprised of flexible pixelated material. None of the prior art provide wearable image content playback means for displaying formatted video and / or graphic image content peculiar to the sizes and shapes of typical apparel segments or to the sizes and shapes of a plurality of such segments.

It is well known that articles of apparel are typically comprised of irregularly shaped apparel segments, most often including segment shapes adjoined to one another that, in size and shape, are all different. Therefore it would be reasonable to assume that many types of apparel--if comprised of a flexible pixelated material--would also be comprised of irregularly shaped apparel segments. Thus, in order to have video and / or graphic image display content which appears contiguously over a plurality of irregularly shaped apparel segments, it is necessary to format the display content according to each and all apparel segment shapes making up an article of clothing. The present invention discloses how--when typical apparel segment shapes are seamed to one another—the size and shape of display content can also be formatted to the irregular shapes of each, and all, of the apparel's segments, such that the displaying of video and / or graphic image content appears contiguously over each segment and over a plurality of segments, and is also correctly aligned across the seams between apparel segments.

Thus, it is apparent that the wearable pixelated apparel with user-controllable content playback means of the present invention is a self-contained, distinctive system. The 'system' requires a plurality of wearable, portable components that are electronically connected, or have wireless communication, with one other, including:

(a) a wearable article of clothing comprised of one or more apparel segments made of a flexible pixelated material;

(b) a wearable user interface for providing user control of display content playback;

(b) a wearable display content playback or content reception device; and

(c) video and / or graphic image display content, playable from the wearable playback or content reception device, wherein the content intended for a currently worn article of clothing, is sized and shaped according to one or more apparel segments making up that apparel.

Respectfully, Darrell Metcalf (805) 524-1747